

Mr. President, we need to ensure that more federal education money is sent to the classroom, and that states, schools, and parents have more flexibility in using those funds in the way that will best help students achieve their fullest potential. We must find ways to encourage states and local schools to be innovative and creative in finding the most successful ways to challenge our students to the highest levels and achievement. Senator HUTCHINSON's "Dollars to the Classroom Act" will help accomplish these goals, and that is why I am pleased to co-sponsor his legislation.

During the coming months, Congress should continue to evaluate our current federal elementary and secondary education programs and make the necessary changes to incorporate the ingredients we know have proven successful in providing the best education possible for our children. We cannot afford to maintain the status quo if it is not working. We owe it to our next generation to provide them what they need to be successful in the 21st Century.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 17

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 17, a bill to increase the availability, affordability, and quality of child care.

S. 136

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 136, a bill to provide for teacher excellence and classroom help.

S. 170

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to permit revocation by members of the clergy of their exemption from Social Security coverage.

S. 285

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 285, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 311, a bill to authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 323

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 323, a bill to redesignate the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as a national park and establish the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 5

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 5, a concurrent resolution expressing congressional opposition to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and urging the President to assert clearly United States opposition to such a unilateral declaration of statehood.

SENATE RESOLUTION 33—DESIGNATING MAY 1999 AS NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CLELAND, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. ALLARD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 33

Whereas the freedom and security that United States citizens enjoy today are results of the vigilant commitment of the United States Armed Forces in preserving the freedom and security;

Whereas it is appropriate to promote national awareness of the sacrifices that members of the United States Armed Forces have made in the past and continue to make every day in order to support the Constitution and to preserve the freedoms and liberties that enrich the Nation;

Whereas it is important to preserve and foster the honor and respect that the United States Armed Forces deserve for vital service on behalf of the United States;

Whereas it is appropriate to emphasize the importance of the United States Armed Forces to all persons in the United States;

Whereas it is important to instill in the youth in the United States the significance of the contributions that members of the United States Armed Forces have made in securing and protecting the freedoms that United States citizens enjoy today;

Whereas it is appropriate to underscore the vital support and encouragement that families of members of the United States Armed Forces lend to the strength and commitment of those members;

Whereas it is important to inspire greater love for the United States and encourage greater support for the role of the United States Armed Forces in maintaining the superiority of the United States as a nation and in contributing to world peace;

Whereas it is appropriate to recognize the importance of maintaining a strong, equipped, well-educated, well-trained military for the United States to safeguard freedoms, humanitarianism, and peacekeeping efforts around the world;

Whereas it is important to give greater recognition for the dedication and sacrifices that individuals who serve in the United States Armed Forces have made and continue to make on behalf of the United States;

Whereas it is appropriate to display the proper honor and pride United States citizens feel towards members of the United States Armed Forces for their service;

Whereas it is important to reflect upon the sacrifices made by members of the United States Armed Forces and to show appreciation for such service;

Whereas it is appropriate to recognize, honor, and encourage the dedication and commitment of members of the United States Armed Forces in serving the United States; and

Whereas it is important to acknowledge the contributions of the many individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces since inception of the Armed Forces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 1999 as "National Military Appreciation Month"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to recognize and honor the dedication and commitment of the members of the United States Armed Forces and to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise today to submit legislation, cosponsored by Senators WARNER and LEVIN and other members of the Armed Services Committee, to designate May 1999 as National Military Appreciation Month. I would like to emphasize at the outset the role of the United Services Organization, the USO, in approaching me to ask that I submit this resolution. I am honored that an organization so central to the quality of the lives of our service personnel for so many decades chose me as the one to carry this legislation forward.

Last week, I joined with a number of my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee to report to the Senate S. 4, the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines' Bill of Rights of 1999. That legislation addresses areas identified by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as their highest priorities in resolving the growing readiness problems afflicting the Armed Forces. By restoring the retirement system that existed prior to 1986 and taking concrete measures to close the pay gap and remove military families from the rolls of those eligible for food stamps, I am confident that S. 4 will go a long way toward alleviating the retention and recruitment problems that have contributed so much to the recent decline in military readiness.

It is out of concern for the welfare of the men and women who wear the uniform of our nation's armed forces that S. 4 was passed so early in the legislative year by the Armed Services Committee. It is out of a sense of pride in those same men and women that I offer this resolution designating May as National Military Appreciation Month.

During May 1999, we will observe Victory in Europe Day, Military Spouse Day, Armed Forces Day, and, most importantly, Memorial Day. It is appropriate that, with our armed forces currently operating in Bosnia, Macedonia, Haiti, and the Persian Gulf, and conducting routine peacetime activities too numerous to list in support of U.S. foreign policy in virtually every part of the globe, that the nation dedicate that month to remind itself of the contribution these individuals make to the preservation of a way of life increasingly taken for granted.

It has become almost platitudinous to point out the increased burden placed on a smaller military since the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. Our military forces are being sent into harm's way more often than during any period since the Vietnam War, with additional deployments contemplated as I speak. Strong economic growth and low unemployment have reduced the incentive on the part of many young people to enlist in the Armed Forces, thereby further diminishing the percentage of Americans exposed to military service. By designating May 1999 as National Military Appreciation Month, it is my hope that the country will be more inclined to reflect on the sacrifices of so many throughout our history and today, and to better understand why we in Congress are acting so hastily to address quality of life issues affecting our service personnel and their families. My good friend, DUNCAN HUNTER, has offered companion legislation in the House of Representatives, and I look forward to speedy passage of this bill in the weeks ahead.●

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my friend Senator McCAIN in submitting this resolution designating May 1999 as "National Military Appreciation Month." Senator McCAIN is one of the great champions in the Senate of the men and women who serve in our armed forces. It is a privilege to join him in sponsoring this resolution.

Day after day, our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines continue to demonstrate a high degree of excellence and commitment. No matter what we ask of them, they always respond in the most professional manner imaginable. We have asked them to serve in combat operations, in peacekeeping missions, and in humanitarian relief efforts. We have deployed them around the world to stand in the face of aggression. They make tremendous personal sacrifices to serve their nation.

The most recent example of the excellence and professionalism of our forces was Operation Desert Fox. Over 40,000 troops deployed from bases around the world in response to Saddam Hussein's flagrant defiance of UN authorized inspections. Without a single U.S. or British casualty, our troops

flew more than 600 aircraft sorties, 300 of them a night. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines all participated in this flawless operation. This same excellence has been demonstrated in Bosnia, Korea, Central America, and every other place where our members serve.

Our troops are, quite simply, the best. They are the best trained, best equipped, best disciplined and most highly skilled and motivated military force in the world. They deserve the recognition of a grateful Nation. This resolution calls on all Americans to recognize and honor their dedication and service. It is the least we can do.●

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

SOLDIERS', SAILORS', AIRMEN'S, AND MARINES' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 1999

CLELAND AMENDMENT NO. 6

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. CLELAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 4) to improve pay and retirement equity for members of the Armed Forces; and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 33, line 16, strike "for a period of more than 30 days" and insert "and a member of the Ready Reserve in any pay status".

On page 34, beginning on line 10, strike "on active duty" and insert "members on active duty; members of the Ready Reserve".

On page 35, strike lines 3 through 6 and insert the following:

"(c) MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION.—(1) The amount contributed by a member of the uniformed services for any pay period out of basic pay may not exceed 5 percent of such member's basic pay for such pay period.

"(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the amount contributed by a member of the Ready Reserve for any pay period for any compensation received under section 206 of title 37 may not exceed 5 percent of such member's compensation for such pay period.

"(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, no contribution may be made under this paragraph for a member of the Ready Reserve for any year to the extent that such contribution, when added to prior contributions for such member for such year under this subchapter, exceeds any limitation under section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

On page 35, line 9, insert "or out of compensation under section 206 of title 37," after "out of basic pay".

On page 35, line 12, strike "308a, 308f," and insert "308a through 308h".

On page 36, in the matter following line 15, strike "on active duty" and insert "members on active duty; members of the Ready Reserve".

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, when S. 4 is debated in the Senate, I intend to offer an amendment to expand the Thrift Savings Plan to allow the participation of members of the Ready Reserve. The 1.5 million members of the Reserve Components make up half of our military forces. They are contrib-

uting to our military efforts at home and around the world every day of the year, side-by-side with their active duty counterparts. We are using our Reserve component personnel more often and for a broader range of missions and operations than ever before.

Since the end of the Cold War, members of the Reserve Components have participated at record levels. In fact, over 17,000 Reservists and Guardsmen have answered the Nation's call to bring peace to Bosnia. Nearly 270,000 Reservists and Guardsmen were mobilized during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Numerous Guard and Reserve units from all corners of the United States responded immediately to requests for assistance in the wake of Hurricane Mitch, delivering over 10 million pounds of humanitarian aid to devastated areas in Central America. Closer to home, Reserve and National Guard personnel answered the cries for help after devastating floods struck in North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. They braved high winds and water to fill sandbags, provide security, and transport food, fresh water, medical supplies and disaster workers to the affected areas. And the Air Force Reserve's "Hurricane Hunters" are the only Department of Defense organization that routinely flies into tropical storms and hurricanes to collect data to improve forecast accuracy, which dramatically minimizes losses due to the destructive forces of these storms. These are but a few examples of what members of the Guard and Reserve do on a daily basis. What amazes me most is that many take part in these important military operations on a volunteer basis, and have to balance these demands with those of their full-time civilian careers and their families.

In September 1997, Secretary of Defense Cohen wrote a memorandum acknowledging an increased reliance on the Reserve Components. He called upon the Services to remove all remaining barriers to achieving a "seamless Total Force." He has also said that without Reservists, "we can't do it in Bosnia, we can't do it in the Gulf, we can't do it anywhere." The Reserve Components will, without a doubt, play an integral role in our national military strategy of the 21st century.

Allowing members who serve in the Reserve Components to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan would carry on the spirit of Secretary Cohen's Total Force policy at virtually no additional cost. But, most importantly, doing so sends a message to our citizen soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen that we recognize and appreciate their sacrifices.●

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate